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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/896,187	06/29/2001	Eric J. Horvitz	MS164185.1	9560
27195 7590 12/18/2007 AMIN. TUROCY & CALVIN, LLP 24TH FLOOR, NATIONAL CITY CENTER 1900 EAST NINTH STREET CLEVELAND, OH 44114			EXAMINER SMITS, TALIVALDIS IVARS	
			ART UNIT 2626	PAPER NUMBER
			NOTIFICATION DATE 12/18/2007	DELIVERY MODE ELECTRONIC

**Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.**

The time period for reply, if any, is set in the attached communication.

Notice of the Office communication was sent electronically on above-indicated "Notification Date" to the following e-mail address(es):

docket1@thepatentattorneys.com  
hholmes@thepatentattorneys.com  
osteuball@thepatentattorneys.com

## Office Action Summary

**Application No.**

09/896,187

**Applicant(s)**

HORVITZ ET AL.

**Examiner**

Talivaldis Ivars Smits

**Art Unit**

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

### Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

### Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 October 2007.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☒ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

### Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 20, 21, 29 and 55 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are rejected.
- 7) ☒ Claim(s) 1-16, 20, 21, 29, and 55 is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

### Application Papers

- 9) ☒ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

### Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

### Attachment(s)

- ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- ☒ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 12/6/2007.
- ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_\_.
- ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application
- ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_\_.

## **DETAILED ACTION**

### ***Response to Amendment***

1. In response to the Office Action mailed 7/11/2007 applicant has submitted an Amendment, filed 10/11/2007, amending claims 1, 29, and 55, without adding new matter, and arguing for the allowability of the claims. There being no new art found which singly or in combination reads on said amended claims, the claims are allowable, apart from several informalities mentioned next.

### ***Specification***

2. The Title of the invention is not sufficiently descriptive. A new Title is required that is more clearly indicative of the invention to which the claims are directed. The following Title is suggested: "Inferring informational goals and preferred level of detail of answer based on application being employed by the user".

3. The amended Abstract of the disclosure, filed 2/11/2002, is objected to because it contains extraneous matter not claimed, but says nothing about inferring preferred level of detail of answers to queries based on the application being employed by the user. Correction is required, by rewriting the Abstract to focus on matter actually being claimed and making the claims allowable.

4. The disclosure is objected to because of the following informalities: The application number of a co-pending related application, listed in the Amendment filed 1/31/2005, is missing. Appropriate correction, by furnishing this application number, is required.

#### ***Allowable Subject Matter***

5. Claims 1-16, 20, 21, 29 and 55 are allowable. The following is a statement of reasons for the indication of allowable subject matter: Independent claims 1, 29, and 55 contain allowable subject matter because they recite an interface for a query system wherein the preferred level of detail for an answer to a query is determined on an application being employed by the user. The prior art of record does not teach nor fairly suggest in combination this limitation in a query system interface.

Dependent claims 2-16, 20, and 21 contain allowable subject matter because they further limit independent claim 1 or their parent claims.

#### ***Conclusion***

6. The prior art made of record and not relied upon is considered pertinent to applicant's disclosure: Martha E. Pollack, "Inferring Domain Plans in Question-Answering", teaches generation of appropriate responses to queries. Heyning Adrian Cheng, "Knowledgespaces: A Probabilistic Model for Mining Tacit Knowledge for Information Retrieval", teaches inferring the actual information needs of users based on their recent browsing history.

7. This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters: informalities in the Abstract, Title, and Specification.

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213, (Comm'r Pat. 1935).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

8. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Talivaldis Ivars Smits whose telephone number is 571-272-7628. The examiner can normally be reached on 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m..

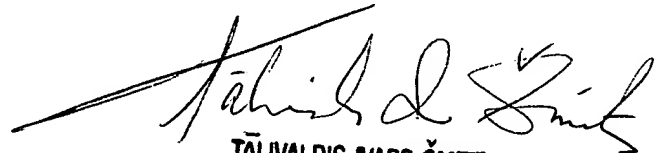
If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Richemond Dorvil can be reached on 571-272-7602. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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9. Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

12/12/2007



TĀLIVALDIS NARS ŠMITS  
PRIMARY EXAMINER